



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,608	10/09/2001	Masoud Azmoodeh	IVT.0013US	6171
21906	7590	02/09/2005	EXAMINER LUU, AN T	
TROP PRUNER & HU, PC 8554 KATY FREEWAY SUITE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024			ART UNIT 2816	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/973,608	AZMOODEH, MASOUD
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	An T. Luu	2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed on 12-17-04.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 2-5 and 11-24 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 2-5 and 11-24 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant's RCE filed on 12-17-04 has been received and entered in the case. Claims 2-5 and 11-24 are pending wherein claims 17-24 are newly added claims.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The limitation ““the count value is below a threshold” is not supported by the specification.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 2-5, 11-12 and 15-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Hotta et al reference (U.S. Patent 5,133,064).

Hotta et al discloses in figures 21 and 22 an apparatus comprising a high frequency clock oscillator 1303, a counter 1304 coupled to the clock oscillator, and a controller 1305 coupled to

received an output of the counter to generate a low frequency clock K1 with an asymmetrical duty cycle as required by claim 11.

As to claim 12, figure 22 shows signal 1322 has higher frequency relative to the signal K1.

As to claim 15, figure 22 shows the controller changes the position of a falling edge of a symmetrical clock 1323 relative to the position of a rising edge of the symmetrical clock to obtain the asymmetrical duty cycle.

As to claim 16, the controller 1305 changes duty cycle of the input (i.e., graph 1323 vs. K1). Therefore, it minimizes the n-th harmonic and changes the magnitude of other harmonic.

As to claims 2-5 and 17-18, they are rejected for reciting a methods/steps derived from an apparatus of claims 11-12 and 15-16 that is rejected as noted above. Further, it is inherent that the predetermined duty cycle is changed based on counter value of divider (i.e., either divider 1304).

As to claim 19, as best understood, figure 22 shows a falling edge of the low frequency clock signal is triggered when signal 1323 drop below a threshold (i.e., half way of falling edge of 1323)

As to claims 20-21, the scopes of claims are similar to that of claims 11-12. Therefore, they are rejected for the same reason set forth above.

As to claims 22-24, figure 32 discloses the apparatus of claim 20 (clock generator 3201) further comprising a digital portion 3202 coupled to the second clock signal (i.e., output of 3201) wherein the entire apparatus are on single substrate 3100.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hotta et al reference (U.S. Patent 5,133,064) in view of the Canfield et al. reference (U. S. Patent 6,310,922).

Hotta et al discloses all the claimed invention except for teaching a counter is a down or programmable down counter as required by claims 13 and 14.

However, Canfield discloses in figures 5 and 6 a programmable down counter for use in signal synchronization as required by claims.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time the invention was made, to replace a generic counter in Hotta et al with a programmable down counter taught by Canfield because such a counter would provide further capability of adjusting the duty cycle of signal and/or fast synchronization.

A skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine these arts to achieve a better range of duty cycle.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

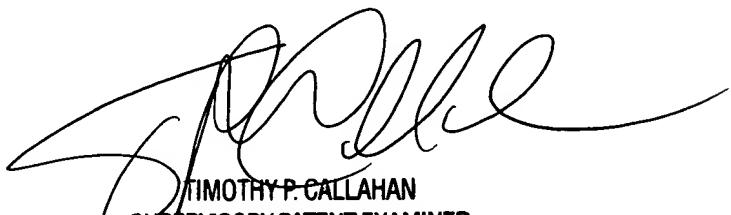
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to An T. Luu whose telephone number is 571-272-1746. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

An T. Luu  
1-31-05 *ATL*



TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800